

Document No. **14**

Elections at the Assembly:
A discussion starter

A request from North America

During the Central Committee, the North American Regional Group invited the Deputy General Secretary for a discussion on elections at the assembly. The central committee members from the USA and Canada argued that their mechanisms (involving two countries with no regional ecumenical organization bringing them together) needed more time for taking shared decisions. Therefore, they would be grateful if they were given, as early as possible, instructions about the Council's expectations on receiving proposals for candidates.

A follow-up to the 9th Assembly

Rev. Dr Bernice Powell-Jackson, president from North America, and moderator of the Nominations Committee of the Assembly in Porto Alegre urged the Council to look at this request not only in light of the difficulties experienced by the region, but also in light of the entire nominations process at the assembly.

Her suggestion, therefore, was to give serious consideration to the concerns that the nominations committee had raised in its report. The nominations committee had suggested that these concerns should be clarified by the new central committee before the 10th assembly (**cf. Appendix: Doc NC 04 - Final Report of the Nominations Committee**).

An additional reason

The need to look anew at the nomination process could also be related to the growing ethos of "wider" or "more inclusive" ecumenical instruments, including in their membership not only representatives of member churches but also of ecumenical partners. Such an exercise can be seen as extremely controversial, particularly when member churches would like to defend their exclusive right for participation. It may even prove extremely difficult, particularly because all ecumenical partners do not follow the same criteria with the council or the one or two seats allocated to them did not allow for an "inclusive" participation.

Suggested actions:

The Executive Committee is asked:

- i. *To initiate a preliminary discussion on/follow-up to the assembly nominations committee report.*
- ii. *To envisage the elaboration of preliminary instructions for the regions, expected to play an active role in the nominations process (proposal of candidates, etc.).*